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A Lamentation OVER ENGLAND AND Faithful Warning To the Inhabitants thereof.

By *William Bingley.*

Amos 8.10. *And I will turn your* Feasts *into* Mourning, *and all your* Songs *into* Lamentation; *I will bring up* Sack-cloth *upon all Loyns, and* Baldneſs *upon every Head, and I will make it as the Mourning of an only Son, and the end thereof as a Bitter Day.*

Jer. 6. 10. *To whom ſhall I ſpeak and give Warning, that they may hear? Behold, their Ear is Uncircumciſed, and they cannot hearken; behold, the Word of the Lord is unto them a Reproach, they have no delight in it, &c.*

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ENGLISH HISTORICAL TRACTS

First, A *Lamentation over* England, *and the Dominions thereunto belonging, with a faithful Warning to the Inhabitants thereof, to ceaſe from the evil of their Doings, and to turn unto the Lord by ſpeedy Repentance, that ſo they may eſcape the dreadful Judgments of Almighty God, which are threatned and ready to be executed upon them, becauſe of the Crying Sins that do abound in Nations.*

Secondly, *A Warning to the* Rulers *and* Magiſtrates *(in particular) to leave off perſecuting and afflicting the Innocent; and to amend their Lives and Converſations, and ſet up Juſtice and execute true Judgment among the People, leſt God plead with them in his Anger, and conſume them in his ſore Diſpleaſure.*

Thirdly, *An Expoſtulation with the* Clergy *of the aforeſaid Dominions, whereby they are diſcovered not to be in the Steps, Lives and Practices of the Prophets of God, true Miniſters of Chriſt, but of the falſe Prophets, and of Antichriſt.*

Fourthly, *A Warning to thoſe among them, whoſe Day of Mercy is not over, to Repent of theſe their Wicked and Antichriſtian Practices, whereby they deceive the People, or elſe the Lord will make them a* Hiſſing *and a* Reproach *to the Nations, and their Memorial a* Stink *to Generations to come, &c.*

A Lamentation over England, *and the Dominions thereunto belonging.*

OH *England! England!* the Land of my Nativity, for whom my Soul hath often mourned, and at this time mourns before the Lord, and my Spirit is grieved within me, to behold ſo much *Wickedneſs*, *Ungodlineſs*, *Oppreſſion*, and *Abomination* as at this day abounds in thee! A Nation to whom God Almighty hath ſignally appeared, and been at work in by his mighty Arm and divine Power; and the proffers of Love and Mercy from the God of Mercies have been to thee, and the Lord hath long waited to be gracious and merciful to thee, and hath extended one Viſitation after another unto thee, and hath many a time ſought thy Inhabitants in tender yearning Bowels of Love.

But notwithſtanding all theſe Mercies, and tender Dealings of the Lord with you the Inhabitants of *England*, how have you continued in your Sins and Tranſgreſſions againſt the Lord, that hath thus ſought your return to him, that he might have mercy on you! And when Intreatings and yearning Bowels would not draw nor prevail upon you (to reſtrain you from your evil courſes, and to bring you to Amendment of Life) he hath threatned Judgment, and alſo many times executed it upon thy Inhabitants, O *England!* and hath ſhewed his Diſpleaſure againſt you many a time: But neither Mercy nor Judgment, Smiles nor Threats have taken place among many of thy Rebellious and Gain-ſaying Inhabitants. For though the Lord hath often intreated, and his Arm of everlaſting Mercies have been ſtretched out to you, as it was to *Iſrael* of Old; and as they rebelled againſt the Lord, who would have gathered them, even ſo have you refuſed to hearken to him, and to *Forſake the Evil of your*

Wayes, and to turn to the Lord God, who would have ſaved you from the Wrath and fierce Vengeance that is coming upon the Rebellious.

And though he hath pleaded with you in Judgment, and hath manifeſted his Diſpleaſure and Wrath in the midſt of thy Inhabitants, (though alwayes mixed with Mercy) and ſhewed them that he can do whatſoever he will; For who can withſtand him in his great Power? ſeeing the Nations are but as the drop of a Bucket before him, and as the ſmall Duſt in the Ballance; for he hath overturned on one Hand, and overturned on the other Hand, in the ſight of many of you who are yet alive; and hath brought down the Mighty from their Seats (who exalted themſelves againſt the Lord, and againſt the Innocent) and hath exalted them of low degree; and when they did not anſwer the End, for which the Lord God appeared on their behalf, but rebelled againſt the living God, who had ſcattered their Enemies before them, the Hand of the Lord alſo turned againſt them, and confounded them, and broke and ſcattered them, and hath blown them away with the Breath of his Mouth, as the Chaff of the Summer-threſhing-Floor.

And yet all theſe *Revolutions* and *Overturnings*, which the Lord hath brought to paſs in the ſight of many of you the Inhabitants of *England*, and his pleadings with you in Judgment, time after time with *Sword*, with *Peſtilence* and *Fire*, and many other dreadful Judgments, which have been both threatned and executed in a dreadful manner; yet have not many of thy Inhabitants bowed themſelves to the Lord, who hath thus appeared, nor feared before this dreadful God, *who will be revealed in flames of Fire, taking Vengeance on the Rebellious and Gain-ſayers of the Goſpel of his Son*; but have grieved and provoked him by your Wickedneſs and Ungodlineſs from day to day.

And when the Lord hath ſent his *Servants* and *Meſſengers* to you, who have faithfully *reproved Sin in the Gate*, and where-ever it appeared; and have cryed unto you, *To break off from your Sins and Tranſgreſſions by true Repentance and Godly Sorrow, for your Sins, and to Amend your Lives and Converſations, and to turn to God with all your Hearts, and to put away the Evil of your doings from*

from before the Eyes of the Lord, and to ceaſe to do Evil, and learn to do Well; that ſo the Lord (according to his Promiſe) *might have blotted out your Sins, and remembred your Tranſgreſſions no more, that Reſt and Peace with the everlaſting God might have been known to your immortal Souls forever and ever.*

But all theſe Labours of Love, and yearning Bowels, with which you have been ſought both by the Lord, and alſo by his Servants (who have riſen early, and travelled with their Lives in their Hands, & have earneſtly deſired your turning to the Lord) have been ſlighted, and ſet at nought by you: Neither have you turned from the Evil of your wayes at all, but like *Jeruſalem* of Old, (whom the Lord would have gathered) have rejected the Reproofs of the Spirit and Grace of God in your ſelves, and are doing Deſpight to the Spirit of Grace, by which you ſhould have been both ſanctified, and alſo ſealed to the Day of Redemption; and alſo rejecting the Inſtructions, Reproofs and Warnings, which by the faithful Servants of the Lord have been ſounded in your Ears; Inſtead of hearkening thereunto, you have evilly intreated them with *Whipping, Stocking, Stoning, ſpoiling of their Goods*, to the Ruining of many Families, Impriſoning ſome to Death, and Baniſhing others; with many other groſs and horrid Abuſes, wherewith you have entreated the Servants of the Lord, for no other Cauſe than for the exerciſe of their Conſciences towards God, and reproving you for your Sins, and crying to you for Amendment of Life; which beſpeaks you to be a People that hate Righteouſneſs, and love Iniquity, chuſing your own Vanities, and ſlighting the Tender Mercies of the Lord God, treaſuring up to your ſelves Wrath againſt the Day of Wrath; and ſo are bringing ſwift Deſtruction and Miſery upon your ſelves. Oh! My Soul mourns in the ſight and ſence of that *dreadful Day* which is coming upon you, for your Tranſgreſſions and Rebellion againſt the living God, and for your thus abuſing and ſhamefully entreating them, who have been ſent unto you by the Lord, who ſought nothing but the good and everlaſting Peace of your immortal Souls.

But none of theſe things have prevailed upon many of thy Inhabitants, O *England!* to ſoften your hard Hearts, and to tender them before the Lord. For inſtead of ceaſing from your Sins

Sins and Abominations (which abound amongſt many of you) by true Repentance and Amendment of your Lives and Converſations, and turning to the Lord, who hath cryed to you many a time, ſaying, *Turn you, turn you, why will you dye?* (as he did to *Iſrael* of old) but you have ſtopped your Ears as they did, who were compared to the *deaf Adder that would not hear the Voice of the Charmer, charming never ſo wiſely*; and ſo continuing ſtill in your Abominations (which the Lord would have gathered you from, had you obey'd his Voice) manifold Sins and Wickedneſs encreaſe amongſt you, as *Swearing*, *Curſing*, *Damning*, *Revelling*, *Drunkenneſs*, *Whoredoms* and *Murders*, with many other groſs and ſhameful Impieties; yea, almoſt all manner of Wickedneſs, Rebellion and Treachery, both againſt God and Man, abounds amongſt many of you the Inhabitants of *England*, for which God will bring Judgment & Sorrow upon you, yea, ſuch Sorrow as ſhall never have an end, except you ſpeedily Repent.

And thoſe that can act theſe horrid Wickedneſſes and crying Sins (which indeed make the Land Mourn) without fear or ſhame, as if they did not conſider that there is a God, who will puniſh for them, are they not moſt eſteemed and ſet up amongſt many of you now a days? and ſo that is ſeen to increaſe amongſt many of you the Inhabitants of *ENGLAND* (to the grief and ſorrow of the hearts of many) which the Prophet ſaw, and concerning which he cryed out of old, ſaying, *The Proud are counted Happy, yea, they that work Wickedneſs are even ſet up, and they that tempt God are even delivered*, Mal. 3. 15.

But let all ſuch know, who are guilty of theſe Evils, your everlaſting Thraldom and eternal Miſery is coming on, and will overtake you, (if ye ſpeedily Repent not) out of which you ſhall never be delivered.

And ſuch as cannot run with the Multitude into thoſe Evils and Abominations which provoke the Lord God of Heaven and Earth to Anger, but live in the fear of God, and a Life becoming *Chriſtianity*, as knowing they muſt give an Account (and ſo muſt all the Sons and Daughters of men) to God the Judge of all, both quick and dead, and muſt receive a Reward at his hand, according to their Doings, whether they be good or evil, and ſo cannot ruſh into Iniquity with them, as the Horſe

ruſheth

ruſheth into Battel, are become a Prey to the Ungodly, and as objects of Scorn and Deriſion, on whom the Wicked and the Ungodly execute their Cruelty and grievous Oppreſſion; yea, Godlineſs and Piety is ſo little regarded amongſt many who profeſs *Chriſtianity*, that a ſober Life and a godly Converſation is become a Deriſion; its Crime enough now a days among many, for a man to have a civil Carriage and a ſober Behaviour (and to walk as one who fears the Lord) to be ſcoffed at and vilified with reproachful Names, as he paſſeth through Town or City.

So that Wickedneſs and Debauchery, Looſeneſs and Prophanneſs is encouraged and abounds, Virtue and Sobriety are diſcouraged and decryed among many of you the Inhabitants of *ENGLAND*. For we ſee many of you are living and ſpending your days here in this World, in thoſe things which are ſo contrary to Chriſtianity, Purity and Holineſs (without which none ſhall ſee the Lord) as if there were no ſuch thing to be known or minded by you: And all thoſe holy Admonitions in the Scriptures of Truth, and the threatnings of Puniſhment and eternal Sorrow to the Wicked and Ungodly, which the Scriptures are full of (if timely Repentance be not known) are ſlighted and diſregarded by you, as if they ſhould never be fulfilled nor executed upon you.

And theſe are the Practices that have been and yet are found amongſt you, encouraged and upheld by you to this day, againſt an innocent and harmleſs People, whom God Almighty hath gathered and choſen out of the World, the Ways and Abominations thereof, to be a peculiar People to himſelf, zealous of good Works, who have always ſought the good and peace of the Nation, and the abounding of Juſtice and Equity therein, and have often entreated the Lord, and ſupplicated God on your behalf, *That he would not break in upon you, the Inhabitants of* ENGLAND, *by his fierce Wrath and ſore Diſpleaſure*, leſt he ſhould conſume you all at once, for your Sins and Tranſgreſſions againſt him, who hath tendred Salvation, but you refuſed it.

And many have laboured faithfully among you, to turn you from Darkneſs to the Light of Chriſt (which now ſhines, bleſſed be the Lord forever) and from Satans Power (by which you have

have been, and yet are captivated and prevailed upon to work Iniquity with greedineſs) to the Power of God, which would have Redeemed out of that Slavery and Captivity, into the glorious Liberty and Freedom of the Sons of God, had there been Obedience and Subjection yielded to it.

But this alſo hath been ſlighted and ſet at nought by many of you: And thoſe who have thus laboured and travelled among you for your good, you have reward with *Stocking*, *Stoning* and *Impriſonments*, with many other groſs and horrid Abuſes, as *Jeruſalem* did of Old them that were ſent to her: And inſtead of turning to *Chriſt*, *the true Light*, *that enlightens every man that cometh into the World*, John 1.9. You have made a ſcorn and a deriſion of it, and have loved Darkneſs rather than the Light, (which manifeſts to you the Wickedneſs of your Evil Hearts, and the Abominations that have lodged there) becauſe there Deeds are Evil, *John* 3. 19, 20. And ſo have hated the bleſſed Light that doth reprove for Sin, loving your Sins, for which you have been reproved, better than the Light who hath reproved you.

And ſo have manifeſted your ſelves to be ſuch as the Apoſtle ſpoke of, *Lovers of your own Pleaſures*, *Proud*, *Blaſphemers*, *diſobedient to Parents*, *Unthankful*, *Unholy*, *without natural Affection*, *Truce-breakers*, *falſe Accuſers*, *Incontient*, *Fierce*, *Deſpiſers of thoſe that are good*, *Treacherous*, *Heady*, *High-minded*, *lovers of Pleaſure more than lovers of God*, &c. 2 *Tim.* 3. 2, 3, 4.

And in theſe Evils above-mentioned, you are ſatisfying your own Hearts Luſts, living in all manner of Voluptuouſneſs, Pride, vain Glory, and forgetfulneſs of God, and ſo are guilty of thoſe Sins which *Iſrael* of Old were guilty of, *who ſate down* (in forgetfulneſs of God) *to Eat and to Drink*, *and roſe up to Play*, Exod. 32. 6.

And this is the State of too many of you the Inhabitants of *England*, both Prieſts and People, for which the Wrath of Almighty God is kindled againſt you, and his ſore Diſpleaſure is nigh to break forth upon you, in which he will trample you under his Feet, and appoint you your portion in the Lake of Perdition forever, if you Repent not, and that ſpeedily.

Oh *England! England!* How many Warnings have thy Inhabitants had? And how long hath the Lord ſtrove with you?

both

both by his Servants, and alſo by the many ſignal Tokens that have appeared of his diſpleaſure amongſt you? Yet none of thoſe things have prevailed upon you to turn from the Evil of your wayes; but you have hardened your Hearts, and ſtiffened your Necks in your Wickedneſs and Rebellion againſt God (though he has long waited to be gracious to you) for which God will bring everlaſting Miſery and Sorrow upon you, if ye continue in theſe Evils which have abounded, and yet abound among you.

For although the Apoſtle ſaith expreſly, *Know you not that the Unrighteous ſhall not inherit the Kingdom of God? Be not deceived, neither Fornicators, nor Idolaters, nor Drunkards, nor Revilers, &c. ſhall inherit the Kingdom of God*, 1 Cor. 6. 9, 10. And notwithſtanding theſe Teſtimonies which are certainly true, and will be fulfilled upon all the Ungodly: How many are living in theſe very Evils! as *Whoredoms, Drunkenneſs, Revilings*, with many other crying Sins, which are expreſly forbidden; yet you continue in them, as if all thoſe Judgments and Torments threatned in the Scriptures of Truth againſt the Wicked, were but meer Fictions. And ſo you go on in your Wickedneſs and Ungodlineſs, as if there were neither Puniſhment nor Torment to the Wicked, and as if there were neither God nor Devil, Heaven nor Hell.

But let all ſuch know, that the dreadful God of Heaven and Earth, that rained Fire and Brimſtone upon *Sodom* and *Gomorrah* of Old, that puniſhed the Wicked in every Age, (who hath promiſed, and will perform it) though the Wicked joyn Hand in Hand, they ſhall not go unpuniſhed; but he will render the Recompence and Reward of your own doings into your Boſoms; and if you do not turn to him while he ſtrives with you, ye ſhall feel the weight of his avenging Hand and Iron Rod, with which he will daſh the Rebellious Nations to pieces like a Potters Veſſel. And now my Soul deſires that you may turn from your Evil Courſes, and no longer continue in your Exaltedneſs of mind and heart, and in your Wickedneſs and Ungodlineſs, leſt you be brought down and turned into Hell, with all Nations that forget God, *Pſal.* 9. 17. to be tormented with the Devil and his Angels forever and evermore.

For the Lord hath often waited to be gracious unto you, and hath born with you, though you have greatly provoked him, yet his Patience has lasted long; and he hath held forth a Hand of love to many, who have taken no notice of it: But now his Patience is almost worn out, and his long suffering well nigh come to an End; yea, I am afraid its come to an end already to many of you, the Inhabitants of *England*, and his Indignation is kindled, and burns hot against you, who have refused to hearken to him, who hath called you time after time, and is nigh to break forth like a devouring Fire; and before him the Wicked shall be as Hay, and as Stubble, whom God will consume, and will leave them neither Root nor Branch.

For behold, the Cry of your Iniquities hath reached unto Heaven, and your Sins have come up before the Lord, and into remembrance with our God; and the Day wherein he will ease him of his Adversaries, and avenge him of his Enemies maketh haste, wherein he will pour out his Wrath, Indignation and Judgment upon you, the Inhabitants of *England* (that continue in your Gain-saying and Rebellion against God) without any mixture of Mercy.

Oh! you my native Country Men and People of *England* (in general) for whom a travail is upon my Spirit at present, and hath been many a time, that you might be prevailed upon (whose Day of Mercy is not yet ended and over, whom the shadow of Death and the Night is not yet wholly spread) to consider your latter end, before it be too late; and to turn from your Sins and Transgressions, your Haughtiness, Pride and vain Glory, and your abusing your selves with those things which God hath extended as Mercies unto you, *viz.* your wasting, abusing and spending the good Creatures of God to satisfie your Lusts, which hath highly displeased the Lord, and provoked him to Anger.

And that you may all come to learn that blessed Lesson, which the holy men of Old learned, who were taught by the Grace and Spirit of God, (*a measure whereof is given to every man to profit withal*, 1 Cor. 12. 7.) which was, *That denying Ungodliness, and worldly Lusts, they might live Soberly, Righteously and Godlily in the present evil World*, Tit. 2. 11, 12. Which all that ever come to inherit Rest and Peace with God, and to have a habitation in his holy

Kingdom

Kingdom of everlaſting Joy, muſt be found living in, and to cry to God in a ſence of your Miſerable ſtate and Deplorable Condition, while the Ear of his tender Mercy is open to hear you, leſt ſuch a Day come upon and overtake you, as was threatned to a People of Old, *wherein you may Cry, and the Lord will not hear you*; (becauſe you have not hearkened to him, when he called) *you may Call, and he will not Anſwer; but will laugh at your Calamity, and mock when your Fear cometh.*

But that this Day may never overtake you, to whom the Viſitation of God is yet continued, is the hearty Deſire and Prayer of my Soul to God for you: Therefore turn to God with all your Hearts, while his Arms of tender Mercy are open to receive you; and triffle not away your precious time that yet remains, leſt by ſo doing, you bring the ſentence of an eternal Excluſion upon your ſelves from God, and the joy of his Kingdom forever and ever.

And, Oh that a true Deſire were begotten in all your Hearts and Minds, to come to that bleſſed Fountain of God's free Love, which he hath opened for all who are willing to come to it, the Virtue whereof purgeth the Souls of all that waſh in it, from Sin and Uncleanneſs, and ſo ſprinkles the Conſcience from death, and dead works, to ſerve the living God in newneſs and purity of a Holy Life.

And now, Oh that you all may be willing to take that good Counſel, which was given by the Lord to a People of Old, when he ſaid by the Mouth of his Prophet, *Waſh you, make you clean, put away from before me the Evil of your doings; ceaſe to do Evil, and learn to do Well; ſeek Judgment, relieve the Oppreſſed, judge the Fatherleſs, plead for the Widdow: Come now, let us reaſon together, ſaith the Lord; though your Sins be as Scarlet, they ſhall be as white as Snow; though they be red as Crimſon, they ſhall be as Wool: If you be willing and obedient, you ſhall eat the good of the Land*, &c. *Iſa.* 1. 16, 17, 18, 19.

Theſe are the precious Promiſes of God to all who are willing to forſake the Evil of their doings, and to turn to him with all their Hearts, who deſires not the death (or deſtruction) of any, but rather that they may Repent, and live.

And again, the good Counſel and Advice of the holy Apoſtle ought to be minded and obſerved by you all, which is on this wiſe,

Cleanſe your Hands ye Sinners, puriſie your Hearts ye Double-minded; be Afflicted, and Mourn, and Weep; Let your Laughter be turned into Mourning, and your Joy into Heavineſs: Humble your ſelves in the ſight of the Lord, and he ſhall lift you up, James 4. 8, 9, 10.

And unleſs you thus humble your ſelves under the mighty Hand of God, and turn to the Lord, and forſake your ſinful Wayes, and evil Courſes, and wait to know a being waſhed in the Blood of Jeſus Chriſt (which cleanſeth from all Sin) that is the Fountain of God's free and great Love opened unto all Mankind, you can never come to have a place in the Reſt which God hath prepared, nor in that Kingdom of eternal Glory, which remains ſure to the Righteous forever.

Now the Lord knows (who ſearches the Hearts, and tryeth the Reigns of all, from whoſe all-ſeeing Eye nothing can be hid) that I labour for, and ſeek nothing more, than your turning to the Lord with broken, tender and penitent Hearts, that you may find Mercy with God to your immortal Souls; and that while you have dayes here in this world, you may ſo live in his Fear, Wiſdom and Counſel, as that when-ever your latter end cometh, and Death looks you in the Face, and ſummons you before the righteous Judge of Heaven and Earth, you may lay down your Heads, and go to your Graves in Peace with God, and in a full aſſurance of a Habitation in that Eternal Joy, where no Sorrow nor Sighing ſhall ever come.

Theſe are the Deſires and earneſt Breathings of him, whoſe Soul hath often been wounded, and his Spirit grieved, in the hearing and beholding the Wickedneſs and Abominations which have abounded, and yet do abound amongſt many unto this very day; and alſo hath mourned, and been bowed before the Lord, in the ſight and ſence of that dreadful Day, which will certainly overtake and come upon all thoſe, who continue in their Wickedneſs and Rebellion againſt God.

W. B.

A VVarning to the Rulers and Magiſtrates, &c.

AND now all ye *Rulers*, *Magiſtrates*, and Men in Authority in *ENGLAND*, and the Dominions thereunto belonging, the Lord God of Heaven and Earth (in whom Power and Authority remains forever, *To pull down, and ſet up whomſoever he pleaſeth*) is highly diſpleaſed with many of you, (not excepting the Wicked and Oppreſſive Rulers through the whole World) becauſe you have not feared before his eternal Power and Majeſty, by whom the Life, Breath and Beeing of all Mankind, and every living Creature is continued, who can take it away, and bring the higheſt and loftieſt of Mortal Men to the Duſt (from whence they come) at his Pleaſure.

Neither have you waited to receive Wiſdom and Counſel from him, the great Counſellour, to act and to diſcharge your ſelves as you ought to have done, in ſo great Affairs and weighty Concerns as you have undertaken; which if you had done, ye would have encouraged Virtue and Righteouſneſs in all, and puniſhed Vice and Wickedneſs, where-ever it appeared, and have been a Terror to Evil-doers, and a Praiſe to them that were found doing Well; and ſo would have eaſed the Oppreſſed, by breaking the Bonds of Oppreſſion, and executed Juſtice and Equity in the Earth, and thereby Truth and Holineſs, Purity and Righteouſneſs would have been exalted among you; and this would have brought Peace and laſting Satisfaction into your own Hearts, and Joy and Tranquillity to the Nation in general.

But have not many of you done and acted to the contrary? For inſtead of puniſhing Debauchery and Wickedneſs, viz. *Swearing*, *Curſing*, *Drunkenneſs*, *Whoredoms*, *Looſeneſs* and *Pre-*

Prophanneſs in others, (which you ought to have done, and to have been good Examples of Purity and Holineſs in your Lives and Converſations to all) are not many of you your ſelves living and taking delight and pleaſure in the above-mentioned Evils, and groſs Abominations? for which God, the righteous Judge of Heaven and Earth (who will not be byaſſed with Rewards) will puniſh with everlaſting Pain, and eternal Flames, if there be a continuing in them.

And many of you, by your bad Lives and Converſations, (others having taken you for Examples) have you not encouraged them in their Wickedneſs? Is not that the cauſe which maketh Ungodlineſs abound? as it doth among many at this day, to the grief and ſorrow of many, who have truly deſired to ſee the Current of Iniquity ſtopt.

And whether have you ſet up *Judgment* and *Juſtice* as you ought to have done? Or executed it upon the Tranſgreſſors, or eaſed the Oppreſſed, or broken the Bonds of Oppreſſion, and have been a Terror to the Evil-doers, and Encouragers of them that do Well?

But have not many of you puniſhed and oppreſſed the Innocent, and have executed your Cruelty upon them, and have let the Tranſgreſſors and the Wicked go free? And So are not Such found in the Steps of thoſe againſt whom the Prophet of the Lord cryed out of old, Saying; *Your Hands are defiled with Blood, your Fingers with Iniquity, your Lips have ſpoken Lyes, your Tongues muttred Perverſeneſs; none calleth for Juſtice, nor any pleadeth for Truth: They truſt in Vanity, and ſpeak Lyes; They conceive Miſchief, and bring forth Iniquity; Their works are works of Iniquity; The act of Violence is in their hands; Their feet run to Evil; They make haſte to ſhed Innocent Blood; Waſting and Deſtruction are in their Paths; The way of Peace they know not, and there is no Judgment in their goings; They have made them Crooked Paths, whoſoever goeth therein, ſhall not know Peace; and Judgment is turned away backward, and Juſtice ſtandeth a far off; for Truth is fallen in the ſtreets, and Equity cannot enter; yea, Truth falleth, and he that departeth from evil maketh himſelf a Prey; And the Lord ſaw it, and it diſpleaſed him that there was no Judgment,* *Iſa.* 59. 3, 4, & 6, 7, 8, 14, 15.

And have not many or moſt of theſe Wickednelſes been acted amongſt

amongst many of you the Rulers & Magistrates of *ENGLAND*, and the Dominions thereunto belonging? And have not many devised Mischief and Oppression against an Innocent People, that have done no wrong nor harm to any of you, nor to the Nation in general; but have sought the good and everlasting Wellfare of the Sons and Daughters of Men every where? And have not cruel Laws been made against them? And have they not been (with many other Laws which were never made or intended against us) executed upon us, with Cruelty and Severity (though the breach of no just Law can be charged upon us) to the Ruin, Spoiling and exposing many Families to Poverty, which were capable of relieving and assisting others? And are not these Cruelties and Unrighteous Practices upheld and continued? So that at this very day, many undergo great Hardships, Abuses and cruel Usages, for no other Cause that can justly be laid to their Charge, than for keeping their Consciences clear in the sight of God, for Worshipping him according to his holy Requirings, and for reproving sin in the Gate, and crying to People, *To leave off their Wickedness, Pride, Drunkenness, Whoredoms, Cursing* and *Swearing*, with many other gross Abominations which abound too much among many, both *Rulers Priests* and *People*; for which God Almighty is angry with this Nation, and will bring his *dreadful Judgments* on all those that continue therein.

And the Cry that hath run through many in this day, to *Rulers Priests* and *People*, hath been, *To break off from the abovementioned Evils by true Repentance, and by Amendment of their Lives and Conversations, while the day of Mercy lasteth to them, and to fear the living God, that they might serve him in Truth and Righteousness*; And this is that which we have sought or desired (even to see this Change wrought in all) in our Labours and Travails, for which we have this Reward of Oppression, Cruelty, Spoiling of Goods and Imprisonments, with many other great, Inhumane and Unchristian-like Abuses, which our innocent Sufferings for many years, and unto this very day (which at this time is very great) may plainly shew; Though alwayes without any Just cause given on our parts; for none can justly charge us with *Plotting* and *Contriving*, *Rebellion*

or

or *Insurrections* against the *KING* or the *GOVERNMENT* or *Peace* of the *Nation*. But we have always sought the good and everlasting Happiness of all, yea, of our Enemies themselves, though many times Shamefully abused by them, both in Body and Goods; and the good and wellfare of the Rulers and Magistrates of *England*, though many of you have imprisoned many of us (time after time) some in Nasty Holes till Death, and others to the Ruining of their Familes (as to outward things) because they could not wrong nor offer violence to their own Consciences.

And when Authority hath been given to Wicked, Ungodly, Prophane, and Unreasonable men, to make Spoil of their Goods (who were sure to have one part of the Spoil themselves) they have not only made Havock and great Spoil thereof, but have taken liberty (if they had not Power given them) grosly to abuse their *Bodies* also, by hailing and beating them, &c.

And all these *Unrighteous, Unjust Dealings* and *Proceedings* have been patiently born (only a cry hath been in our hearts to the Lord, *That he would open their Understandings, and let them see what they were doing* (that so they might repent and find mercy with God) without seeking Revenge, as knowing *Vengeance is the Lords, and he will repay*; committing our Cause to God, *who will plead the Cause of the innocent*. And that this has been our Practice, it is not unknown to many of you.

So, I desire you *Magistrates* (who have been most concerned in persecuting of us) may consider those Cruelties and Oppressions which have been inflicted upon us; and how there hath been no just Cause on our parts for it: For what *PLOTS* have we contrived? What *Disturbance* have we made to the *Government?* Have we not always been an innocent, suffering People? Look back at our Lives and Conversations, ever since we were a People (in scorn) called *Quakers*; and at our Carriage and Behaviour towards all men: And also, take a view of your dealings with us, and what hath been inflicted upon us; and you may see whether we have justly deserved it by any Evil that we have done: I am sure, if some look back with an impartial Eye, they will have cause to be ashamed of their Dealings and Proceedings against us, who have made us as objects, on whom they have

have executed their Cruelty and Oppreſſion. And alſo take a view of your doings, and ſee whether many of you are not found too much in the ſteps of thoſe of old, whom the Prophet of the Lord cryed out againſt, ſaying, *Hear I pray you, O Heads of* Jacob, *and ye Princes of the Houſe of* Iſrael; *Is it not for you to know Judgment? who hate the good and love the evil, who pluck off their ſkins from off them, and their fleſh from off their Bones: Who alſo eat the fleſh of my People and flay their ſkins from off them, and they break their Bones and chop them in pieces as fleſh for the Caldron*, Micah 3. 1, 2, 3.

And the Judgment threatned, which was juſt upon them for their Wickedneſs, Cruelty and Oppreſſion, which was inflicted on his People by them without any bowels of mercy, was on this wiſe; *Then ſhall they Cry unto the Lord, but he will not hear them, —he will even hide his face from them at that time, as they behaved themſelves ill in their doings*, verſ. 4. Again, the Prophet ſaith, *But truly I am full of Power by the Spirit of the Lord, and of Judgment, and of Might, to declare unto* Jacob *his Tranſgreſſion, and to* Iſrael *his ſins. Hear this, I pray you, ye Heads of the houſe of* Jacob, *and ye Princes of the Houſe of* Iſrael, *that abhor Judgment, and pervert all Equity, that build up* Zion *with Blood and* Jeruſalem *with Iniquity; The Heads thereof judge for Reward, and the Prieſts teach for Hire, &c, yet will they lean upon the Lord, and ſay* (as many are ſaying now) *is not the Lord amongſt us? No Evil can come upon us: Therefore ſhall* Zion *for your ſakes be plowed as a Field, and* Jeruſalem *ſhall become heaps, and the mountain of the houſe as the high places of the Forreſt*, verſ. 8, 9, 10, 11, 12.

And as the Lord was angry with that Generation for thoſe Evils that abounded amongſt them, even ſo is he angry with this Nation, becauſe Iniquity and Tranſgreſſion abounds, and love to Righteouſneſs, Equity and Juſtice (and to them that live therein) waxeth cold in many, who make a Profeſſion of God, and Godlineſs. But behold! the Lord hath looked down from Heaven, and hath beheld the Iniquities of many to be of a Scarlet and Crimſon dye, and hath alſo beheld the great Oppreſſion of his People, and the Groanings of the Oppreſſed hath entered into his Ears; And the Lord God is ariſen in his mighty Power to

plead the Cauſe of the afflicted, and will call all to an Account, who are guilty, both for their Sins againſt him, and alſo for their Oppreſſing of his innocent People, and will render a Recompence of Reward into every ones boſom, according to their doings.

Therefore a *WARNING* is in my heart to you all, whoſe day of Mercy is not yet ended; Forſake your evil Courſes, break off from your Sins by true Repentance, and fear before the dreadful God of Heaven and Earth, before whoſe Bar of divine Juſtice, you muſt all ſtand, and receive a Sentence from him the true and equal Judge. And ceaſe from oppreſſing and perſecuting the People of the Lord, who ſeek nothing more than the Honour and Glory of his great Name.

And ſet up Judgment and Juſtice in the Earth, and incourage Truth and Righteouſneſs, and take the Rod of the Wicked from off the back of the Righteons, which hath lain heavy upon them long; And puniſh *Wickedneſs* and *Debauchery*, *Swearing* and *Curſing*, *Drunkenneſs* and *Whoredom*; all which abound to the grief and ſorrow of many. You may hear it every day in your Ears, and behold it with your Eyes, not only many in Authority (who ſhould have been better examples) but alſo the very Boys and Children in the Streets, their Mouths are full of *Curſing* and *Damning*, which is dreadful to think off; its grown ſo common, and ſo much incouraged by the bad examples of many of thoſe that ſhould have been a terror to evil doers.

Therefore puniſh theſe *Wickedneſſes*, which run down like a flood, and indeavour to ſtop the Current of Iniquity, which at this day encreaſes in a dreadful manner; And be good Examples your ſelves in Holineſs of Life and Converſation; *Or elſe God will pour out Shame and everlaſting Contempt upon you, and will plead with you in his fierce Wrath, and in his ſore Diſpleaſure; and his Indignation will break forth like devouring fire, and ye ſhall be* (who are guilty of thoſe Evils) *like Hay and Stubble before him, who will conſume you both Root and Branch, if you Repent not, and that ſpeedily.*

And, Oh that you would fear before the living God, and dread his holy Name, and ſeek the Lord while he may be found; Call upon him while he is near; Leſt that day come upon you wherein

wherein you may ſeek him and he will not be found of you, becauſe you have rejected his Reproofs, and would have none of his Counſel.

Therefore, if a day yet remain to you, mind the Honour of God, and the good of your own Souls; and the propagating of *Truth* and *Holineſs* more than your own *Intereſt*, *Friendſhip* or *Favour* of men, or your *Pride*, *Pomp* and *vain Glory*, which God will ſtain and blaſt by the breath of his mouth, and will blow it away with the Whirlwind of his Wrath, like the Chaff of the Summer threſhing floor forever.

But that you may have a habitation in the Kingdom of eternal Glory, which God hath prepared as a dwelling place for the Righteous, is the deſire of my Soul.

Who am a Lover of Truth and Righteouſneſs,

W. B.

AN

An Expoſtulation with the CLERGY;

And a *WRNING* to thoſe among them whoſe Day of Mercy is not over, &c.

AND now, all you *Prieſts*, who have taken upon you to be the Leaders and Guiders of the People, and alſo to take the Care and Overſight of them, and to inſtruct them, and to be their Shepherds, and to feed them (as you pretend) with Spiritual Food. The Controverſie of the great God of Heaven and Earth is with you, and the day wherein he will plead with you in his ſore Diſpleaſure, makes haſte upon you, becauſe you have neither fed the People with the Food you pretended, nor taken ſuch care of their Souls, as to have led and guided them in the way of Truth and Righteouſneſs, as you ought to have done: For have you not made the People to err by your Lyes, and by your Lightneſs? For according to what ye have taken upon you, ye ſhould have been good Examples to all, in Holineſs, in Purity of Life and Converſation. You have been Examples to the People, I grant; but in what? Hath it not been (with many of you) in *Pride*, *Lightneſs*, *Prophaneneſs*, *Covetouſneſs*, *Oppreſſion* and *Debauchery*, as *Drunkenneſs*, *Curſing*, *Swearing* and *Whoredoms*, with many great and *Crying Sins*? Do not theſe Abominations abound amongſt many of you (upheld and encouraged by your bad Examples) of the *Clergy* of *England*, and the Dominions thereunto belonging? I ſhall leave to all ſober People, that obſerve your Lives and Converſations to judge.

And

And ſo inſtead of leading People in the Way of the Lord, (which is a *pure Way* forever) and into Righteouſneſs and Holineſs (without which none can ſee the Lord) have you not been Inſtrumental (in the hand of the Enemy of all Righteouſneſs) to lead them into the Liberty and Looſeneſs of the World, and into Darkneſs and Ignorance of the Lord, and of his holy Spirit and Grace (which was the Teacher and Leader of the Saints of Old) by your Ungodly and Unrighteous Lives? Do not your Practices beſpeak you to be blind Guides, leading the Blind (though its willful Blindneſs) and ſo have fallen together into the Ditch of Uncleanneſs, (which the abounding of Wickedneſs, that at this day increaſes among many of you, and your Hearers alſo do plainly ſhew) and are ready to fall into the Pit of eternal Miſery and Lake of Perdition, (if you Repent not) which will be your Portion at the Hand of the Juſt God, who will render a Recompence of Reward unto all, according to their doings.

And are you not (with many of your Hearers) in the ſteps of thoſe the Prophet of the Lord cryed out againſt? ſaying, *A wonderful and a horrible thing is committed in the Land, the Prophets thereof prophecy falſly, and the Prieſts bear Rule by their Means, and my People love to have it ſo; And what will you do in the end thereof?* Jer. 5. 30, 31.

Again, another Prophet cryeth out in theſe Words; *Thus ſaith the Lord God, Wo unto the falſe Prophets that follow their own Spirit, and have ſeen nothing. Oh* Iſrael! *thy Prophets are like the Foxes in the Deſart,* &c. *They have ſeen Vanity, and Lying Divination, ſaying, The Lord ſaith, and the Lord hath not ſent them; and they have made others to hope that they would confirm the Word: Have you not ſeen a vain Viſion? And have you not ſpoken a Lying Divination? Whereas you ſay, The Lord ſaith it; Albeit I have not ſpoken: Therefore thus ſaith the Lord God, Becauſe you have ſpoken Vanity, and ſeen Lyes; therefore behold I am againſt you, ſaith the Lord God, and my Hand ſhall be upon the Prophets that ſee Vanity, and divine Lyes; They ſhall not be in the Aſſembly of my People, neither ſhall they be written in the Writing of the Houſe of* Iſrael, *neither ſhall they enter into the Land of* Iſrael; *and ye*

ſhall

ſhall know that I am the Lord God, becauſe, even becauſe they have ſeduced my People, ſaying, Peace, and there was no Peace: And one built up a Wall, and lo, others daubed it with untempered Morter, Ezek. 13. 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10.

Again, the Lord cryed out by his Prophet, ſaying, *Son of man, prophecy againſt the Prophets of* Iſrael; *prophecy, and ſay unto them, Thus ſaith the Lord God unto the Shepherds, Wo be to the Shepherds of* Iſrael *that do feed themſelves; Should not the Shepherds feed the Flock? Ye eat the Fat, and ye clothe you with the Wool; ye kill them that are fed, but ye feed not the Flock: The diſeaſed have ye not ſtrengthened, neither have ye healed that which was ſick, neither have ye bound up that which was broken, neither have you brought again that which was driven away, neither have ye ſought that which was loſt; but with Force and with Cruelty have ye ruled them,* &c. *Therefore, O ye Shepherds, hear the Word of the Lord; thus ſaith the Lord God, Behold I am againſt the Shepherds, and will require the Flock at their Hands,* Ezek. 34. 2, 3, 4, 9, 10.

Again, the Lord cryeth out on this wiſe by another of his Prophets; *For from the leaſt of them, even unto the greateſt of them, every one is given to Covetouſneſs; and from the Prophet, even unto the Prieſt, every one dealeth falſly: They have healed alſo the hurt of the Daughter of my People ſlightly, ſaying, Peace, Peace, when there is no Peace. Were they aſhamed when they had committed Abomination? Nay, they were not at all aſhamed, neither could they bluſh; therefore they ſhall fall among them that fall; at the time that I ſhall viſit them, they ſhall be caſt down, ſaith the Lord,* Jer. 6. 13, 14, 15.

And again, another of the Prophets of the Lord cryed out on this wiſe; *Thus ſaith the Lord concerning the Prophets, that make my People err, that bite with their Teeth, and cry Peace; and he that putteth not into their Mouthes, they even prepare War againſt him: Therefore Night ſhall be upon you, that you ſhall not have a Viſion, and it ſhall be dark over you, that you ſhall not divine; and the Sun ſhall go down over the Prophets, and the Day ſhall be dark over them; then ſhall the Seers be aſhamed, and the Diviners confounded: The Heads thereof judge for Reward, and the Prieſts*

thereof

thereof teach for Hire, and the Prophets thereof divine for Money, Mich. 3. 5, 6, 7, 11.

And are not you, the *Clergy* of *ENGLAND*, and the Dominions thereunto belonging, highly guilty of moſt, if not all theſe great Evils and Abominations which the falſe Prophets of Old were guilty of, for which the true Prophets cryed out againſt them? For have you not run, when the Lord never ſent you? Though moſt of you have not run very far, it hath but been to augment your Wages, and to get fater Benefices: So we find that filthy Lucre has been your greateſt inducement in your Runnings; for it hath been for that many of you have run from one place to another, and have taken upon you to ſpeak in the Name of the Lord, though he never gave you Commiſſion ſo to do; and therefore you have not profited the People at all. For notwithſtanding all your Preaching to the People, how does Iniquity abound, and Tranſgreſſion encreaſe amongſt them? Don't you hear with your Ears the horrible Crys, Oaths, and dreadful Curſings and Damnings, which make the Land mourn? Don't you ſee with your Eyes the Prophaneneſs, Drunkenneſs, Looſeneſs, and almoſt all manner of Wickedneſs and Debauchery which encreaſeth amongſt many of your Hearers? And are not many of you your ſelves (who ſhould be Examples of better things) living and taking Pleaſure therein? Yea, I am ſure many who live near the Fountains, from whence you ſpring, and where you learn your Arts and Sciences, have too much cauſe to affirm it to your ſhame, who daily hear and ſee to their great grief and ſorrow of Heart, that almoſt all manner of Ungodlineſs, Debauchery and Uncleanneſs abounds amongſt many of you in theſe places; and not only in theſe places, but alſo in many other places where you come; Let but People obſerve your Lives and Converſations, and ſee whether many of you, who pretend to be Leaders and Teachers of others, (but let all People conſider whither ſuch can lead them; its but into the broad way, the end whereof is eternal Miſery: Therefore let all People leave off following thoſe Leaders, who are ſuch bad Examples to their Followers) are not highly

guilty of the before-mentioned Abominations; and so are not Examples of Righteousness and Purity, but of Wickedness and Prophaneness to your Hearers; for which the Anger of the Lord God of Heaven and Earth is kindled, and nigh to break forth upon you like a devouring Fire; and if you Repent not speedily, will consume you Root and Branch.

And are you not bearing Rule by your Means, and endeavouring to make the People love to have it so? and by Force and Cruelty, oppressing and persecuting those, who cannot for Conscience sake own you to be the true Ministers of Christ, nor put into your Mouthes, like those the true Prophets of the Lord cryed out against? Read *Isa.* 56. 10, 11, 12.

And are you not seeking your Gain from your Quarters, and minding the Fleece more than the Flock? And don't you Preach for Hire, and Divine for Money? Yea; Are you not selling both your Sermons and your Prayers for Money? And so are doing contrary to the command of Christ to his Ministers and Messengers, when he sent them forth (as Lambs among Wolves) to preach the Gospel of Glad-tidings to the People, who said, *Freely you have received, freely give.* Let your Doings testifie against you, that you are not in the steps of the Disciples of Christ, but are in the steps of *Simon Magus*, (or worse than he) who would have bought the Gift of God for Money: But you sell your own Divinations (under a pretence of the Gift of God) for Money: And if his Practice was condemnable, how can yours be justifiable? So that which was said to him by the holy Apostle *Peter*, may justly be said to you; *You have neither Part nor Lot in this matter; for your Hearts are not right in the sight of God; and you are seen to be in the Gall of Bitterness, and Bond of Iniquity.* Neither do we yet find or understand, that you have yet repented of your Wickedness (so much as he did of his) for instead of Repenting, are you not going on and endeavouring to obtain your Covetous Ends, and are giving Flattering Titles to many, and having mens Persons in Admiration for your own advantage & self-ends, and are crying Peace to many, in such a State and Condition as the Lord never spoke Peace to any in? And so are manifest to be like those that cry *Peace, Peace, when suddain Destruction and Mi-*

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fory is at hand. And you have fed your ſelves with the Fat, and clothed your ſelves with the Wool, and have preyed upon the People; and by your Oppreſſion and Cruelty have ſcattered the Flock, inſtead of gathering them, or turning them to God, who is become the Shepherd and Teacher of his People himſelf, according to his Promiſe of old, *That he would gather his Sheep from the Mouthes of thoſe Shepherds that made a Prey upon them:* Which Promiſe many have witneſſed to be fulfilled in this our day, bleſſed be his Name forever.

And are you not biting with your Teeth (like the falſe Prophets of old) and crying *Peace* to them that put into your Mouthes (though never ſo Unchriſtian-like in their Converſations) But they that cannot for Conſcience-ſake put into your Mouthes, to maintain your Pride, High-mindedneſs and Oppreſſion, have you not, and yet are *preparing War againſt them?* Let the great Spoil and Havock you have made of many ſober and conſcientious Peoples Goods bear witneſs againſt you: And the many Priſons in *England* and elſe-where, in which you have impriſoned ſome unto Death, and many others to the Ruining of them and their Families, becauſe they could not for Conſcience ſake pay you your Unjuſt and Unchriſtian Demands, as *Tythes*, and many other things, which never were demanded nor paid in the primitive Chriſtian Times, as Goſpel-Maintenance (neither is there any ground in the Scriptures for them to be demanded) by the Miniſters of the Goſpel; and ſeeing they were neither demanded nor paid by the Apoſtles or their Succeſſors, while they kept in the primitive Purity; nor any Preſcription given forth by the Apoſtles, that they (to wit, Tythes) ſhould ever be paid or received by the Chriſtians in future Ages: And alſo, ſeeing they were denyed and teſtified againſt by ſeveral of the firſt Reformed Proteſtants, as *Walter Brute, &c.* Therefore, for you to demand them, and to caſt men into Priſon for the Non-Payment of them, manifeſts you to be ſuch as the holy Apoſtle cryed out againſt; *Who beguile unſtable Souls; an heart they have exerciſed with Covetous Practices; Curſed Children, which have forſaken the Right Way, and are gone aſtay, following the Way of* Balaam, *the Son of* Boſor, *who loved the Wages of Unrighteouſneſs,* 2 Pet. 2. 14, 15.

And

And theſe your Cruelties, Perſecutions and Oppreſſions teſtifie to your faces (and to all People that are willing to ſee you) that you are out of the Steps, Life and Spirit of the Meſſengers and Miniſters of Chriſt Jeſus; neither have you any Example for theſe your Wicked Practices and Ungodly Lives, neither from the Prieſts under the Law, nor from the true Miniſters of Chriſt and Preachers of the holy Goſpel in the primitive Times, and in ſeveral Ages ſince the Apoſtles dayes, but from *Balaam*, falſe Prophets, falſe Teachers, *&c.* ſuch as the Prophets of the Lord teſtified againſt.

And all theſe your Practices of Oppreſſion, Cruelty and Perſecution, and your Unholy Lives and Converſations are ſufficient Evidence and Ground for us, (had we no more) not to believe that you are the Miniſters and Meſſengers of Chriſt, but of Antichriſt; for we don't read that ever the true Miniſters of Chriſt did oppreſs or perſecute others, or leave any Preſident for any ſuch Practice, but the contrary; for it was many times their Lots to be perſecuted, ſhamefully abuſed, and caſt into Priſon by others, both in the primitive Times, and in the Reformation, and almoſt in every Age until this very day: And ſo the words of the Apoſtle have been and yet are fulfilled (to wit) *Yea, and all that will live Godly in Chriſt Jeſus, ſhall ſuffer Perſecution*, 2 Tim. 3. 12. And it was the Portion (that Chriſt our Lord ſaid, that ſuch who lived in and followed him ſhould meet withal, viz. *That they ſhould be hated of all Nations for his Names ſake*: And that *they ſhould hale them before Rulers and their Councils*; And that *they ſhould caſt them into Priſon, and Kill them.* He did not ſay, The Believers ſhould caſt their Enemies into Priſon and perſecute them; but commanded, *To love their Enemies, and to pray for them that deſpightfully uſed them, and perſecuted them, that they might be the Children of their Father in Heaven, who ſends the Rain on the juſt and unjuſt, &c.* But you have been ſo far from obeying Chriſt's command, to love your Enemies, that you have, and yet are doing deſpight to thoſe that never did you any harm, but have ſought, and yet are ſeeking your Everlaſting Peace and Well-being, both of Soul and Body. So that Perſecution and Cruelty is not a Mark of true Believers, that obey Chriſt, neither of his Meſſengers and Miniſters, whom he ſends forth to preach

the

the Everlasting Gospel, but a Mark of the Whore, false Prophets and Antichrist. Notwithstanding all their fair Pretences for Christ, yet they have been persecuting the Saints, and drinking the Blood of the Martyrs and Servants of Christ, *For which the Anger of the Lord is breaking forth, and he is arising in his Mighty Power to plead the Cause of his Suffering People; and will give the Whore Blood to drink, and the Cup of his Indignation and Fury* (which she shall not escape) *from his hand shall be her Portion, and the Portion of all that joyn with her, except they Repent.*

And that you are in the same Steps, your own Practices, in persecuting and oppressing an innocent People, are Evidence and Proof sufficient against you. And therefore all you whose Day of Mercy is not yet over, and are guilty of these things, Repent of, and cease from these your Wicked and Unchristian-like Practices of Cruelty, Oppression and Persecution, and also from your Wicked, Unclean Lives and Conversations, and humble your selves under the Mighty Hand of God, submit to & lie under his Righteous Judgments, and bear his Indignation and Wrath, which is just upon you for your Wickedness, Cruelty and Oppression, and for your Pride and Ungodliness, which abound amongst many of you; that thereby you may learn Righteousness, and to dread and fear before the living God, and to serve him in Truth and Righteousness, who over all is worthy to be served, honoured and obeyed forever.

And mind the teachings of his holy Grace and Spirit (*a measure whereof is given to every man to profit withal,*) which teacheth *to deny Ungodliness, and worldly Lusts, and to live a Sober, a Righteous and a Godly Life in this present evil World.*

And be ye Examples of Meekness and Lowliness of Mind and Spirit, and of Purity, Righteousness and Holiness in your Conversations, *Or else the Dreadful God of Heaven and Earth will pour out his Fury like Fire upon you; and ye shall be as Hay and as Stubble before his Fiery Indignation, which shall burn you up, and none shall be able to quench it; and your Portion shall be with the Beast and false Prophets, who shall be taken alive and cast into the Lake of Fire that burns* (*as with Brimstone*) *to be Tormented forever and for evermore.*

Moreover, God Almighty, whose Righteous Soul has been grieved by your Cruelty and Oppression against his People, and whose

whose holy Name has been and yet is dishonoured by your Ungodly Lives, *will pour out Shame and Everlasting Contempt upon you; and ye shall be like Chaff before the Breath of the Almighty, who will drive you away like Smoak before the Wind, never to be found any more: And your Names shall Rot in the Earth, and your Stink shall come up.* And as the Remembrance of the Wicked and false Prophets are an evil Savour to this day, *so shall the Remembrance of you be to the Generations that are yet to come, if ye Repent not speedily.*

But that you may all escape these Judgments of the Lord, and Eternal Sorrows (which are prepared as a Portion for the Wicked) in returning to the Lord by true Repentance and Amendment of your Lives; and that you may find Mercy with God to your Immortal Souls, both in this World, and in that which is to come, is the Desire of him who is concerned to give forth this Testimony, as a Warning to all whose day is not yet over.

Who am a Hater of Deceit and Hypocrisie, but a Lover of Truth and Righteousness, and a Well-wisher of the Souls of all the Sons and Daughters of Men,

William Bingley.

THE END.